

Issue NE-CW1903, released May 12, 2003, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov, Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending May 11, 2003, cool temperatures, rainfall and wet soil conditions delayed planting activities, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Warmer temperatures are needed to boost crop development and dry out soils. Wheat, pasture and alfalfa conditions continued to improve.

This release is based on reports and data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. Current county specific comments plus current and historic PDF files of Weather and Crop reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm

Weather Summary: Temperatures ranged from two to eight degrees below normals for the week. Precipitation was statewide with most stations reporting over one inch.

Field Crops Report: Corn planting made limited progress again last week and was 46 percent complete. Rain delays have put planting progress about a week and a half behind last year at 76 percent and a week behind average at 71. Thirteen percent of the fields had emerged, compared with 24 last year and 22 average.

Soybean planting experienced rain delays also but reached 6 percent complete. This compared to 18 percent last year and 20 average.

Sorghum planting was underway in several areas of the state with 2 percent of the acreage seeded. This compared with 6 percent last year and 8 average.

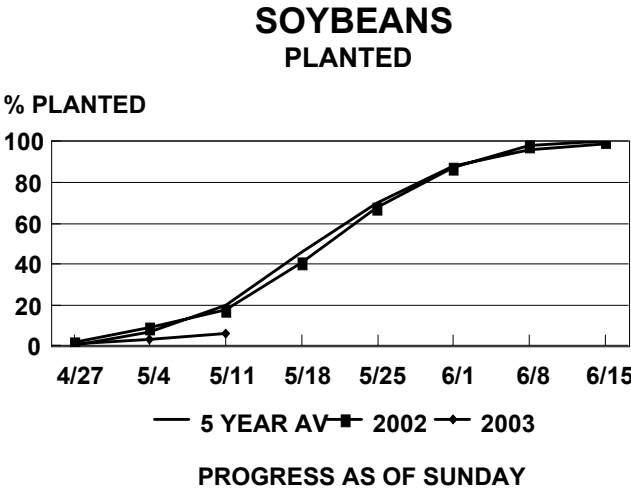
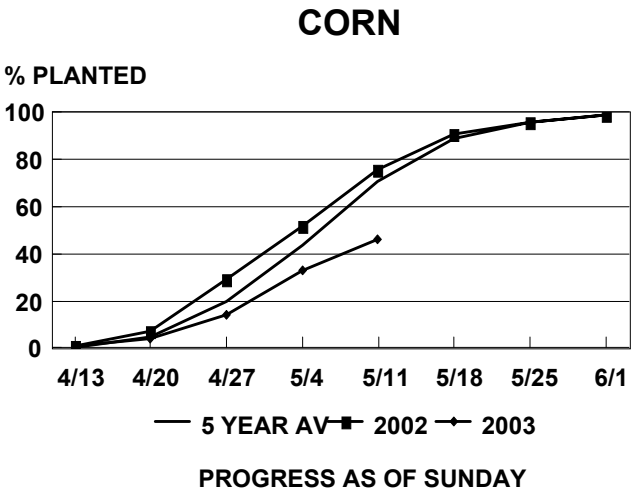
Wheat condition rated 8 percent poor, 32 fair, 47 good, and 13 excellent, above last year and the 5 year average. Seventy-one percent of the crop had jointed, a week ahead of last year at 44 and a few days ahead of average at 61. Wheat fields had begun to head out in the southern districts and rated 1 percent for the state. This compares to 2 percent last year and 3 average.

Sugar beet planting progressed in the Panhandle and Southwest districts to 90 percent complete, compared to 96 last year.

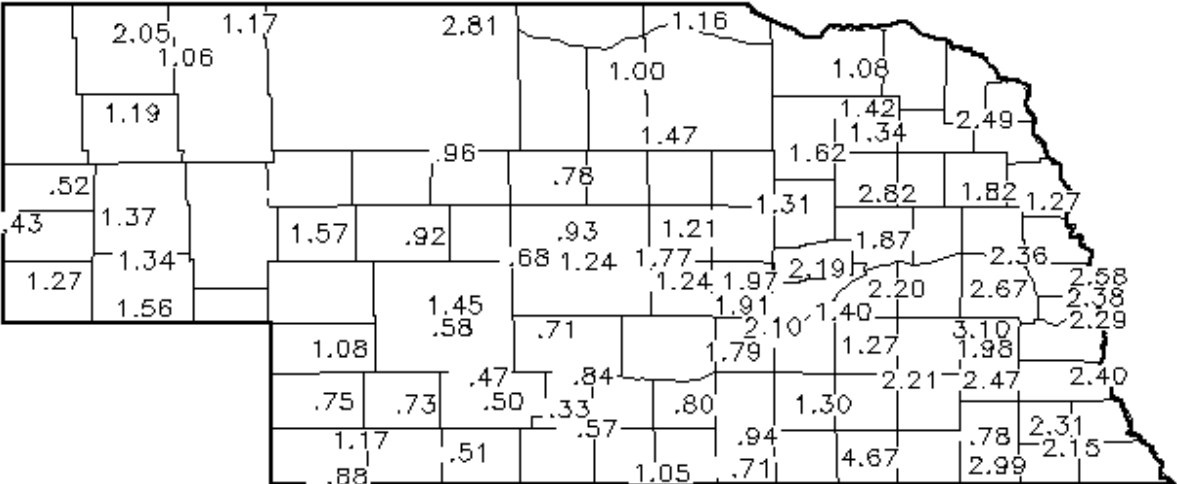
Alfalfa conditions rated 2 percent very poor, 5 poor, 26 fair, 48 good, and 19 excellent. First cutting activities are expected to get underway soon.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Weekly rains have benefitted pastures and rangeland, with condition rated 11 percent very poor, 19 poor, 39 fair, 26 good, and 5 excellent. Condition remains below a year ago and average. Pastures were showing slow growth in some areas. Feedlots were muddy, slowing weight gains.

Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of May 11, 2003													
Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average	
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE					
% Corn Planted	49	54	35	21	52	36	47	70	46	33	76	71	
% Corn Emerged	6	3	3	4	20	4	4	33	13	5	24	22	
% Sorghum Planted	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	3	2	0	6	8	
% Soybeans Planted	0	4	2	0	7	0	6	9	6	3	18	20	
% Wheat Jointed	68	80	47	80	57	78	79	63	71	61	44	61	
% Wheat Headed	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	2	3	
% Oats Planted	85	99	100	100	94	95	100	99	96	94	99	97	
% Oats Emerged	55	86	98	93	91	76	87	87	86	77	88	84	
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	2.9	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.0	2.7	2.4	2.1	1.8	2.3	4.8	4.8	
Topsoil Moisture - % Very short	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	18	9	
- % Short	9	0	0	0	2	6	2	12	4	7	21	21	
- % Adequate	86	90	72	16	69	87	89	72	77	84	59	61	
- % Surplus	5	10	28	84	29	7	9	15	18	9	2	9	
Subsoil Moisture - % Very Short	15	6	2	1	8	23	12	25	11	14	19	13	
- % Short	49	14	35	24	38	45	38	44	34	42	35	21	
- % Adequate	36	70	56	75	54	32	49	31	52	43	45	62	
- % Surplus	0	10	7	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	1	4	



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending May 11, 2003



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - May 11, 2003

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	1.19	1.36	1.82	1.51	2.08	.85	.64	2.36
Total since April 1	3.77	5.93	6.36	7.24	6.02	5.67	5.08	5.68
Normal since April 1	2.81	3.22	3.84	3.65	4.11	3.01	3.40	4.17
Total as % of normal	133%	185%	165%	198%	146%	188%	149%	136%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, May 11, 2003

Station		Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	69	32	47	-6	31	121	194
	Scottsbluff	70	33	48	-5	34	163	194
	Sidney	68	32	46	-8	26	136	200
NC	Ainsworth	72	39	51	-5	36	144	213
	Arthur	69	36	49	-7	32	126	212
	O'Neill	71	40	51	-6	35	142	223
NE	Concord	70	42	52	-6	36	171	224
	Elgin	69	41	45	-6	36	152	228
	West Point	70	39	53	-7	38	179	237
C	Grand Island	71	42	54	-5	44	179	235
	Lexington	71	40	54	-4	49	182	233
	Ord	70	40	54	-5	45	170	231
EC	Lincoln	72	39	55	-6	50	228	247
	Central City	71	41	54	-5	44	196	236
	Mead	71	38	54	-7	44	210	245
SW	Champion	69	36	52	-4	47	172	221
	North Platte	70	37	53	-4	47	173	222
	Curtis	71	40	55	-2	52	194	227
SC	Arapahoe	69	33	48	-8	33	140	210
	Minden	71	41	54	-4	48	189	234
	Red Cloud	74	40	54	-5	51	215	238
SE	Beatrice	73	39	56	-5	56	243	247
	Clay Center	71	39	53	-6	44	191	236
	Nemaha	74	43	57	-4	61	250	269

Source: High Plains Climate Center.